



February 2024

Greetings from Our President

Our weather is certainly as mild as I can remember in February, and I'm sure we are all fretting a bit over the bulbs and tender growth that is making an appearance in all of our gardens earlier than expected. I'm counting on mother nature and reallocating some mulch and evergreen branches from holiday containers for protection, as I can't believe we won't get more snow this year! I am also hoping the colder night time temperatures are going to ensure that my outdoor winter jug planting is successful. My plan was to help stock a native table at the plant sale with those. Fingers crossed! On that note, please keep the club in mind if you are starting seeds indoors soon and have room to plant some extras for the plant sale the first Saturday of June.

We have so many great activities and programs planned throughout spring and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Remember to sign up for the March program at the library, registration opens March 1. We will also be starting the nominating committee process soon to fill roles that are opening as current committee chairs reach their 2 year obligation. New chairs will take over in September, but we plan to have some overlap of activities to help ease the transition. Please consider helping to keep the club active and vibrant. We definitely cannot do it without your help!

Beth

Winter/Spring Meetings

- February 26
- March 25
- April 22
- May 20

See page 2 for meeting details

Inside This Issue

Presidents Message 1

Name This Native Plant 2

February Program 2

Membership Report 3

Hearts of Gold 3

Dr. Doug Tallamy 4

Monarch Update 4

Prairie Restoration 5

Conservation Corner 6-7

Native Landscape Design 7

Plant Sale 8

Trees Leaves in Winter..... 9

Committee Spotlight 10-11

Feeding the Birds..... 12

Education 13-14

Amaryllis 15

Wild Bleeding Heart 16

Treasurers Report 17

Board Meeting Notes..... 18

February Program

February 26th @ 7:30 PM, St. Simon's Church

Roses: How Many Do You Have in Your Yard?

Presented by Jackie Kosbab



Jackie Kosbab has worked at Cantigny for 14 years. She is responsible for designing and maintaining a number of areas of the garden as well as annuals in the golf course. Jackie has been the Rose Garden Curator for three years and is ALWAYS learning something new.

Many gardeners think having roses in their garden can be a little intimidating as well as time consuming. With a little know how, roses can thrive and be a wonderful addition to your garden! Come and hear how to make this happen!

Gardeners in Winter

Underneath the cold,
underneath the snow
Nature rests
What are we to do
But rest
There is beauty in the cold
That keeps us in
As the poet
Mary Oliver says
In her poem Wild Geese
the world offers itself
To your imagination.
Plan your garden
Await its nourishment
and beauty

— Juli Cicarelli

About Our Monthly Meetings

Our monthly general meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, September through May.

During the summer, June and July Meetings are held in Members' Gardens.

Meeting Agenda

- 6:30-7 PM Social time
- 7-7:30 PM Business meeting
- 7:30 PM Speaker program begins

Meeting Location

Our meetings are held at [Saint Simon's Episcopal Church](#) in their basement meeting space.

Saint Simon's is located at 717 West Kirchoff Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, and is right next to NW Community Hospital. There is ample parking next to the building. Enter the large west side parking lot and proceed to the west side of the building. You will see a sign, "Parish Hall," next to the stairs. Take the stairs down to the basement entrance. For those who are "stair challenged," you will enter at the parking level entrance to the right of the stairs and take an elevator down to the basement. There is a sign outside indicating the West elevator entrance. A club member will be there to assist you with the elevator. Click on [map](#) for directions.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Can You Name This Native Plant?

(Answer can be found on page 16)



AHGC Membership Report

Lew and Sheila Coffin | Membership

The club membership is 144 members with no change over the past month.

February is Membership Survey Month. Please take a moment to complete the [Garden Club Membership Survey](#). The link was emailed to all members who have a current email address in the membership list on the AHGC website. This is a short survey that can be completed in 5-10 minutes and is easy to submit on-line. Thank you to many of the members who have already completed the survey. Woohoo to you!

If you did not receive the survey via email you can log in through this link [Garden Club Membership Survey](#). If you have any questions related to accessing or completing the survey, please email ahgcmembers@gmail.com. We will be happy to assist you.

The survey seeks to understand how members utilize their membership and participation level in the various activities and benefits offered by the club. There is also an open comments section for feedback on any topic you wish to address. This information will assist the club in meeting the needs of our membership. A report back to members will be issued in late March or April.

As always, any other questions about Membership can be directed to [Lew and Sheila Coffin](#).

The Arlington Heights Garden Club functions through the activities of many committees and volunteers. We have a very vibrant and well-organized club due to the leadership, diverse talents, and contributions of our club members.

Hearts of Gold Award

The AHGC is pleased to announce that Kathy Hendricksen has won the **Kenneth Bonder Beautification Heart of Gold Award**. The Village of Arlington Heights Special Event's Commission recognizes people who live or work in the Village, and go above and beyond to give back to the Arlington Heights community.

Kathy will be honored at the annual banquet on Sunday, February 25. Kathy welcomes anyone from the Garden Club who would like to attend the luncheon and awards ceremony. If you plan on attending, the forms need to be received by Feb 19th and you can purchase tickets online. For more information or to register for this event, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Kathy for being recognized for all the work she does around our community in support of gardening and education!

Hearts of Gold Banquet Tickets Available Online

Winners of the 2024 Hearts of Gold Award Program will be recognized at a banquet at noon on Sunday, Feb. 25th, at DoubleTree Hilton in Arlington Heights. To view the list of winners and to purchase tickets, visit www.vah.com/heartsofgold

A Guide to Little Things That Run the World

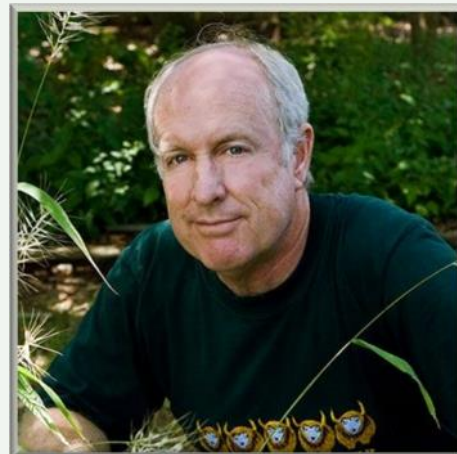
The Porter County Master Gardeners Association (PCMGGA) presents "A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World," with Dr. Doug Tallamy, Educator, Researcher and Author. This seminar was recorded and is being provided to the public at no charge. To view the recorded seminar, please click [here](#).

Why should we care?

A recent UN report predicts that as many as 1 million species will disappear from planet earth because of human activities. Many of these are insects and nearly all species at risk rely on insects. Insects have already declined 45% since 1974. The most alarming part of this statistic is that we don't seem to care, despite the fact that a world without insects is a world without humans!

What can we do?

So how do we create beautiful landscapes brimming with life; landscapes that support the pollinators, herbivores, detritivores, predators and parasitoids that run the ecosystems we depend on? In this recorded seminar Tallamy reminds us of the many essential roles insects play, and describes the simple changes we must make in our landscapes *and our attitudes* to keep insects on the ground, in the air and yes, on our plants.



Dr. Doug Tallamy is a best-selling author, ecologist, conservationist and professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He has written and co-authored several books, as well as many papers, including a recent book, "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard"

Monarch Population Update: Significant Decrease

Carol Elliott

On February 7th the World Wildlife Federation and its partners in central Mexico reported that the [annual survey](#) of the eastern monarch population that overwinters in Mexico had a 59% decrease compared to last year. The 2023-2024 population only covered 2.2 acres compared to 5.5 acres last year. This is the second smallest population on record. The smallest was back in 2013-2014.

The decline is attributed to drought in migration areas, lack of milkweed and nectar plants, and other factors. *We can help the monarchs make a comeback by planting more nectar plants in our gardens. Nectar flowers will help all pollinators and will help vegetable gardeners attract pollinators to their gardens. Examples include beebalm, coneflowers, phlox, joe pye weed, zinnias, cosmos. We can also help by planting milkweed.* Swamp milkweed and butterfly weed do not spread the way common milkweed does. They also can be grown in large containers. Gardeners are going to be a key factor in helping all of our pollinators.



Prairie Restoration: A Tale of Two Churches

Juli Cicarelli | Horticulture

For thousands of years many different Native Americans lived in our area. Illinois is named after the Illinois Confederation, also known as the Illiniwek or Illini which was made up of 12 to 13 tribes. When we restore native plants we are honoring those Native Americans who tended and honored the land we now inhabit.

Two churches, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights and Countryside in Palatine have sites of Prairie Restoration on their church property. Our Saviour's has two sites, one in the front facing Arlington Heights Road and the other alongside their church entrance.

Countryside has just under an acre of restoration and 30 native species, including Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). Those caring for the restoration collect seeds or buy them from Citizens for Conservation. They say that only 1% of seeds produce plants, out of 3.9 million seeds you would average 100 plants.

Both Our Saviour's and Countryside are local examples of the [Homegrown National Park](#). They provide wildlife corridors which are defined as traveling avenues for wildlife species between two similar yet fragmented habitat areas, and provide important sources of food and cover for many species.

The Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife [Habitat Management Fact Sheet Wildlife Corridors fact sheet](#).

One educational and fun activity for children is to give them native seeds, have them make mud balls, fill the mud balls with the seeds and throw the balls into the prairie. We must teach future generations to care about and honor the land that sustains us all.

Indian Grass
Planted at the church
In remembrance

- Juli Cicarelli



Indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans)



Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

February's Recycling Tips from SWANCC



National Battery Day

Several partnering agencies, including SWANCC, have been working together to produce a battery awareness campaign for the state of Illinois. This campaign will be released February 18th which is "National Battery Day". (This is the birthday of Alessandro Volta, an Italian physicist and chemist born in 1745, who is credited with inventing the electric battery.) More information will be coming on this campaign. *Remember* that NO batteries of any kind can go into curbside recycling bins and only alkaline batteries go into the trash. All other batteries (such as lithium or nickel) are collected through special collection events.

Winter Document Destruction Event for SWANCC Residents

Bring only these accepted documents: bank and financial planning statements, medical history forms, retired tax documents, documents with personal information, such as social security numbers. Place materials in shopping bags or small cardboard boxes. Limit of 6 paper bags or boxes. Have your ID ready. Check swancc.org for more information.

Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 – 11:30 am
Glenview Transfer Station
3 Providence Way, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Restaurant Take-Out Containers

One eco-friendly idea is to shift from the takeout food containers restaurants use to bring your own food containers from home. The Illinois legislature passed a bill, [HB2086](#), that amends the Illinois Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow restaurants and retailers to fill or refill a consumer-owned container with ready-made food. Give it a try!

Maple Syrup Festivals

- **River Trails Nature Center**
Sunday, March 17th @ 11 am – 3 pm
Celebrate the arrival of spring with a special day of activities
Activities include crafts, games, tree tapping, and sugar maple syrup history. Free!
3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062
Call for information: 847-824-8360 [Website](#) for more information
- **Guided Maple Syrup Hikes at Ryerson Conservation Area**
March 2,3,9,10,16,17: time slots available every 30 minutes from 12 pm – 2 pm
Ryerson Conservation Area
21950 N. Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods
All ages. Tickets required: LCFPD.org/maple-syrup
- **Festival of the Sugar Maples**
March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, @ 10 am – 3 pm
Coral Woods Conservation Area
7400 Somerset, Marengo
Call for information: 815-338-6223
[Website](#)

Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

Recycle Your Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) also known as Styrofoam



Photos from Daily Herald

Styrofoam is made up of 98% air and 2% polystyrene plastic. It takes over 500 years to break down or decompose styrofoam and by volume, takes up as much as 30% of landfills worldwide. Fortunately, the Mount Prospect Public Works received two grants to purchase a foam densifier that transforms packaging and food service foam into reusable and resalable blocks called EPS foam ingots. How is this done? The Styrofoam is placed into the densifier machine's hopper and is crushed and shredded into small pieces. Next, it undergoes a thermochemical reaction by heating the material. The Styrofoam is now 1/90th of its original volume. These melted ingots are then collected and sent off to be reused to make other plastic products such as picture frames, molding, baseboards, office supplies, and other products. This process is quick, safe, and environmentally friendly!

The items accepted include foam packaging from televisions, appliances, computers, furniture, and foam coolers. Food service foam like egg cartons, trays, takeout cups and plates are also accepted. Foam **MUST** be clean, dry, and free of tape and labels. Items not accepted include blue or pink foam, foam peanuts, noodles, furniture cushions, and construction foam. Open to all Illinois residents. No business, industrial, or medical facility waste will be accepted.

Styrofoam drop off times and weekdays only:

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 pm

Thursdays from 1 pm – 3 pm

Public Works Facility

1700 W. Central Rd, MP (follow the signs to the **Styrofoam drop off area**.)

Native Landscape Design Workshop

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

March 28 @ 7-8:30-pm

Sign-up for this Native Landscape Design workshop at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library on March 28.

Registration is required. Click here to [register](#).

Native plants are beautiful, adapted to the local environment, and beneficial to wildlife, but how do you make them look their best in your home landscape? Learn design principles and native plant selection in this workshop with local Master Gardeners from University of Illinois Extension.



WANTED: Plant Sale Volunteers *and* Plants!

Bob Bruett | Plant Sale Chair

The [Plant Sale](#) this year is on Saturday, June 1st. Setup for the plant sale is on Friday, May 31st. Volunteers are needed to donate plants and to help work at the plant sale.

Now is the time to consider growing some plants from seed for the event. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant are great but also consider some other vegetables like beans, root plants or flowers. For those who we tested last year for jumping worms, please start considering what you will dig up and let me know if you'll need pots etc.

The Plant Sale volunteer sheet is online to make it easy for members to signup for the various activities that help support our fundraiser. Please consider volunteering your time and supporting this important fundraiser. We will need volunteers on Friday May 31st and/or Saturday June 1st. To access our volunteer signup sheet and select a day/time you would like to help out, please [click here](#).

I'd like to thank everyone in advance, who will be participating in one way or another to this years plant sale. I'll send out more on the plant sale in early March but feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me by phone 847-702-3124 or [email](#)

We look forward to another successful year!

Bob Bruett



Some Trees Keep Their Leaves Throughout the Winter

June Miller / Conservation

Every autumn, deciduous trees typically transition from leaves of green to shades of yellow, orange and red. The leaves have stopped producing chlorophyll and there is decreasing metabolism and consumption of energy and water. The tree becomes dormant. Soon, the leaves fall to the ground leaving the tree bare. The branches develop *abscission cells* at the base of the leaf's stalk (petiole). Once those cells harden, the leaves brake off and a protective layer is formed over the petiole scar. However, on some trees, this abscission layer does not completely form until spring which allows the trees to hold on to their leaves much longer. This phenomenon of withered dead leaves persisting on the trees is called *marcescence* (pronounced "mar-CESS-enss"). Once spring comes, the expanding buds force the leaves off the branch. Trees that hold their marcescent leaves through winter include certain oaks (pin, white, swamp white), American beech, ironwood, and hornbeam. Typically it is the younger trees that hold their leaves as the more mature ones may only retain leaves on branches closest to the ground. There is one concern with marcescent leaves which is an increased risk of branch breakage when the leaves gather excess snow and ice.

There are many theories as to why marcescence occurs with no real consensus among researchers. Several theories are listed below:

- The presence of leaves and their rustling sound make the tree twigs and buds less appealing to deer or other wildlife to snack on (defensive action).
- The dead leaves protect the buds from extreme temperatures (frost) and drying winter winds.
- The leaves trap moisture which helps prevent desiccation and dehydration of the developing buds.
- Delaying leaf drop until late winter or early spring could repurpose those leaves into mulch, giving trees a nutrient boost for growth in the spring.
- Retained leaves on younger trees and the lower branches on mature ones provide a means of trapping snow, like a fence. This leads to more moisture at the base of the tree when spring arrives. This is important since oaks thrive on dry and infertile sites.
- Retained leaves provide cover for small animals which in turn deposit fertilizer at the base.
- A Seneca legend claims oaks hold their dead leaves in "defiance of winter".
- Environmental factors such as drought, temperatures staying warmer well into winter, disease, and infestation with insects and pests may cause marcescence to other trees varieties as well.

Though there may not be one definitive explanation for marcescence, there are many good and helpful benefits of this process for these trees. Next time you take a walk around your neighborhood, look for the deciduous trees that are still hanging onto their dried and withered leaves from last fall. If it is breezy, enjoy the sound of the rustling leaves. Andrew Hipp (Dendrology Researcher) wrote the article, "[When Oak Leaves Fail to Fall](#)", which provides a more detailed explanation on marcescence.



White Oak Tree
Photo: June Miller



Beech Tree
Photo: June Miller



Committee Spotlight

THE GARDEN WALK COMMITTEE

The Garden Walk Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the Garden Club's largest fundraiser: The Garden Walk and Unique Boutique. The event consists of touring private Arlington Heights gardens, and a wonderful craft fair – the Unique Boutique. In 2023, the Garden Walk/Unique Boutique event sold 435 tickets and netted \$9,500.

This event is held every year in late June, although planning starts in January! The Garden Walk/Unique Boutique for 2024 will be held on June 23rd.

Because this is a large event, this is a committee that also has sub committees which specialize in various aspects of the event. There are subcommittees that focus on garden selection and homeowner communication, community involvement, finance, sponsor management, garden walk program creation, vendor management, music for the event, boutique setup, publicity, ticket sales, volunteer management, the garden club website, and most importantly all the volunteers who work with the subcommittees. The committee meets one evening per month.

We are always looking for help with our subcommittees, and in particular this year we are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Boutique setup
- Program creation
- Sponsor management
- Vendor management
- Volunteer management

If you are interested in learning more about or helping out with any area of the Garden Walk or Boutique, please reach out to [Jean Kengott](#) – we would love to have you join us!





Committee Spotlight

THE PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

The Plant Sale is our second largest fundraiser and is held generally the first Saturday in June. The annual event consists of selling plants donated from various sources but mainly the donations from club members from their garden. The Plant Sale contributed over \$5,000 each year of the last 3 years. It is a busy but fun event!

This event gets started in December with securing the Historical Museum grounds for the sale. We share it with the Farmers Market. We then set up sign-ups on the website in January. From then on it is asking members to plant seeds for plants to sell or dig them up from their yards. The yards need to be reviewed the summer prior for Asian Jumping Worms to reduce the spread of them throughout the community. In some cases we will coordinate digging up plants in people's gardens if they are unable. We get lists of plants from people donating and make labels for each plant which are distributed the week before and put on the pots right after their last watering before the sale. We also advertise with signs placed at 15 to 20 locations around Arlington heights. We work with the Publicity committee to advertise as well.

The Friday before we ask that the plants to be dropped off at the Museum. Volunteers then will set up tables and tents and sort the plants by various categories. They are priced in preparation for the sale on Saturday. Saturday of the sale, lots of volunteers are needed for two shifts including customer assistance, cashiers, set up and clean up. The sale runs from 8:00am to 12:30 pm, coinciding with the Farmer's Market hours.

We work with the Treasurer to have working cash and make deposits from the sale. We report on the sale with approximate plants sold, average price and total revenue and expenses. We are looking for a Committee Chair replacement for the Plant Sale to work with us this year. If you are interested please [email](#) or call Bob Bruett at 847-702-3124.





Feeding the Birds is Good for You and Good for the Birds

Bev Krams

Studies show that nature and birds have a positive effect on your mental and physical wellbeing — including:

- Lowering blood pressure
- Reducing anxiety
- Relieving stress
- Boosting the immune system
- Strengthening the vascular system
- Boosting mood

In short, feeding the birds is good for your health, as well as theirs. Birds with consistent access to supplemental food at bird feeders have a greater opportunity to be in better physiological condition than those that do not.

Winter is a wonderful time to feed the birds as they are actively looking for reliable food sources to help satisfy their daily nutritional needs. Providing them with food meets birds' needs, while having an impact on your health as well.

For more information on feeding, visit The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: [Winter Guide to Bird Feeding](#)



Photo by Pete Landwehr

Officers

President	Beth Ligenza
Vice President	(open position)
Secretary	Halina Zbilski
Treasurer	Sharon Rudy

Committee Chairs

Artistic	(open position)
Civics	Mike Relaz Dee Schurman
Club Awards	Kathy Hendricksen
Conservation	June Miller
Garden Walk	Jean Kengott (co-chair open position)
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal
Membership	Sheila Coffin Lew Coffin
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruett
Programs	Nancy Asquini-Dean (co-chair open position)
Publicity	Connie Landwehr
Scholarship	Emma Visee
Website	Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

Project Coordinators

Lew & Sheila Coffin	Northwest Compass Garden
Claudette Norwell-Philipp	Student Partnership
Brenda Catardi	Parade

Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MUSEUM AND GARDEN PASS

The library provides you with passes to Museums and Gardens in our area

[Check it out](#)



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY in partnership with the AHGC

LADY BIRD JOHNSON BY Leslie Goddard

In conjunction with the AHGC

Monday, March 25th (registration opens March 1)



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

ADULT EDUCATION

Visit [website](#) for details



CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION

CARING FOR OUR NATIVE OAK

March 9 @ 10-11:30am

Visit [website](#) for details

BUMBLEBEES OF BARRINGTON

April 13th 10-11:30am

Visit [website](#) for details



THE MORTON ARBORETUM

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Visit [website](#) for details



NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY in ROCKFORD

IN FULL BLOOM: ORCHID DISPLAY

February 10 thru March 3 [website](#)

SECRET LIFE OF BUTTERFLIES

March 23 thru May 26 [website](#)



Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CHALET

EVENTS & CLASSES

Click [here](#) for more information



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

FREE ONLINE PROGRAMS

Visit [website](#) for more information



FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[River Trails Nature Center](#) | Northbrook

[Busse Woods](#) | Take a Hike in Ned Brown Preserve

[Crabtree Nature Center](#) | Barrington

Conservation@Home | [Go Native & Get Wild](#) February 24 Zoom Presentation



WILD ONES WEST COOK

GROWING NATIVE PLANTS IN POTS IN URBAN LANDSCAPES

Presented by Dr. Jeremie Fant, of Chicago Botanic Gardens

March 17 @ 2:30-4pm

Virtual presentation. [Register](#)



AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

LIFE LONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

[Website](#) for more information



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

WINTER GARDENING GUIDE

Click [here](#) to read

SPRING GARDEN DAYS AND PLANT SALES

Click [here](#) to view schedule and resources



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Amaryllis

Juli Cicarelli | Horticulture

Amaryllis is called the queen of winter flowers. After your amaryllis has bloomed, it may seem past its prime—but don't throw it away. These bulbs have been known to flower annually for up to 40 years.

My oldest amaryllis is four years old, another two, and this year I have four babies. After all the flowers have faded, cut stems to one to two inches above the bulb, leaving foliage in place. You can plant it outside during the summer and bring it inside in the fall. Set the pot in a cool, dry, and dark place for 8 to 10 weeks.

Be patient. I brought mine inside in October, and they didn't start their new growth until late January. Until then they looked dead, including the tiny baby bulbs. They are my late bloomers, a happy surprise. I'm experimenting with amaryllis cut flowers, theoretically they can last up to two weeks.

A warning: amaryllis is very toxic to pets. Make sure they are out of reach of your pets.

Information about caring for Amaryllis bulbs by [Martha Stewart Editors](#)



Wild Bleeding Heart

(Dicentra eximia)

June Miller / Conservation

Wild Bleeding Heart (also known as fringed bleeding heart and turkey corn) is an herbaceous perennial wildflower native to Illinois, though mostly seen in the eastern U.S. It does resemble the commonly seen and showy Asian Bleeding Heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*), but is shorter in height, has smaller flowers, and blooms longer. This plant features fern-like bluish-green mounding foliage and clusters of drooping flowers that grow along a leafless, leaning stem. The rose pink to purplish red bloom has heart-shaped outer petals with protruding inner petals that appear to form a drop of blood at the bottom of the nodding flower. The flowers bloom from early spring (April) until early summer (July) though they can bloom longer if pruned and dead-headed. These plants can be found in woodlands and are used for shaded gardens, landscape borders, rock gardens, or as ground cover. They are low maintenance and rabbit and deer resistant.

Growth	12-18" in height and spread
Sun Exposure	Part shade though can tolerate full shade with less flower blooms. Can tolerate sun if kept well moistened.
Hardiness	Zones 3-9
Soil	Moist. Well-drained, humus-rich.
Invasive	Non-invasive, colonizes very slowly by rhizomes and self-seeding. Fresh seed will germinate easily but older seed may need to be cold-moist stratified.
Wildlife Benefit	Provides valuable nectar for migrating hummingbirds and long-tongued native bumblebees. Be careful as the sap can cause skin irritation with repeated contact and ingestion can cause a toxic reaction.



Photos from Gardenia Nursery

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Rudy | Treasurer

Arlington Heights Garden Club Treasurer's Report January 2024						
			Checking	Savings		
Account Balance 12/31/23			\$ 5,632.17	\$ 4,623.72		
Receipts:						
Deposit : Donation B.Y. Charitable Fund			1,000.00			
Transfer of funds						
WIX transfers:						
Interest Income					15.43	
less: Credit Card Fees						
Total receipts			1,000.00	15.43		
Disbursements (cleared):			Check #	Ck Date		
Cathy Kostal party reimbursement			1029	12/29/2023	745.01	Christmas party
Bev Crams tree decorating reimbursement			1031	1/7/2024	31.68	Artistic
Elise Slowinske			1032	1/8/2024	2,000.00	Scholarship
Total Disbursements					2,776.69	-
Account Balance 1/31/24			Per Bank	\$ 3,855.48	\$ 4,639.15	
Receipts to be deposited						
Total undeposited receipts			\$ -	\$ -		
not cleared			Check #	Ck Date		
Illinois Charity Bureau Fund			1024	11/27/2023	15.00	Annual report
Etienne Sirois			1030	1/7/2024	2000	Scholarship
Total outstanding checks					\$ 2,015.00	\$ -
ADJUSTED CASH POSITION NFP			1/31/2024	\$ 1,840.48	\$ 4,639.15	
Total Adjusted Cash at			1/31/2024			\$ 6,479.63

AHGC Board Meeting Notes - February 12, 2024

Halina Zbilski | Recording Secretary

President - Beth Ligenza

- Chair positions that will be open at the end of this fiscal year are Conservation, Newsletter, Plant Sale, Garden Walk, Programs, Artistic, and Secretary. Installation will be in September instead of May.

Treasurer – Sharon Rudy

- Scholarships were paid out to 2 recipients in January.

Civics – Mike Relaz and Dee Schurman

- VFW will do a day of service/spring cleanup at Clearbrook on May 4th. Garden Club will continue to maintain and water at Clearbrook, and fill their request for some Hydrangeas to be planted. We will be continuing planting and watering 2 beds at the Viatorian garden, and a request was made to include pollinator plants as well.

Conservation – June Miller

- Looking for possible tree planting sites at several elementary schools.
- We will be supporting and participating in the Village's activities on Earth Day, Sat April 20, and will require 3 or 4 volunteers to help with the Public Works free compost giveaway. Rain barrels can be pre-purchased and picked up on the 20th. Approximately 100 Garden Club brochures will be printed for distribution.

Garden Walk – Jean Kengott

- We will be selling Garden Walk tickets at the Farmer's Market on June 8th and June 15th. Ticket sales will also be available at the Village Bank, and at the Plant sale.
- The question of having Baskets for sale this year was discussed. Since there is a lot involved in purchasing items, tracking the value of each basket, and prepping the baskets, Jean will discuss this further with the Garden Walk committee.

Membership – Sheila Coffin and Lew Coffin

- 25% of the members responded to the Membership survey. Hoping to get a 35% response rate. A reminder request will be emailed to members, and printed copies of the survey will be made available at the February general meeting. March 1st is the deadline for completing the survey, and survey results will be presented at the March meeting.
- A suggestion was made to allow a free trial membership from March to May. New membership year starts on June 1st. One incentive might be to provide a free plant at the plant sale for their trial membership.

Plant Sale – Bob Bruett

- A Plant Sale volunteer sign-up sheet will be available on the website. If anyone is starting seeds, also plant some for the sale.

Programs – Nancy Asquini-Dean

- The February program "Roses" will be presented by Jackie Kosbab.
- The March library program "Lady Bird Johnson" by Leslie Goddard is live to the public with 250 people max. Registration via the library website starts March 1st.
- There are 2 additional library programs that may be of interest to garden club members. On March 28th, the topic is Native Landscaping, and on April 30th, the topic is Spring Landscape Clean up.

Scholarship – Emma Visee

- So far 2 student applications have been received. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 15th.

Business/Old Business/Announcement

- We have been asked to contribute a project such as a child seed planting event at the Family Tent which goes from May thru August at the Farmer's Market. We are stretched thin in May and June, and seed starting in July and August is a bit late. But we can possibly do flower pressing or some other family project in July and August.
- Anyone attending the Annual District IX meeting and luncheon on March 12th is asked to make a check out to AH Garden Club for \$20 if attending the meeting only, or for \$55 if attending the meeting and luncheon, and send to Sharon. Deadline for attendance notice and lunch choices is February 27th.

Next Board Meeting: March 11, 2024